

CHICAGO'S MIDWAY TO BE A DREAM IN MARBLE



Miniature Model of "The Fountain of Time"



Erie



Ontario



Superior

Lorado Taft's Fountain Group, "The Spirit of the Lakes," the First of Series of Sculptures Along Midway Plaisance

THERE will shortly be unveiled at Chicago what is declared by critics to be the first purely ideal work of art ever erected in the New World. This is the fountain group, "The Spirit of the Lakes," by Lorado Taft, and is the first purchase by the trustees of the Art Institute of Chicago from a fund provided by the late Benjamin F. Ferguson to commemorate in sculpture persons and important events in American history.

In "The Spirit of the Lakes" Mr. Taft offers a great national symbol. Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario are represented by five beautiful female figures set upon a rocky base at relative elevations. A stream of clear water rising in the basin held by Superior overflows and falls into the shell Michigan holds ready, then passes on from shell to shell until Ontario surrenders her guardianship of the greatest fresh water lakes in the world to the rough keeping of the turbulent St. Lawrence.

Recently the trustees commissioned Mr. Taft to start work on the great "Fountain of Time," designed to be erected at the western terminus of the Midway Plaisance. The commission means the definite start, expected to be continued without interruption until its final completion, of one of the greatest projects for beautification ever undertaken by a city. Income from the Ferguson fund, amounting to more than \$30,000 a year, is available for carrying the plan through, and it is expected that the entire undertaking can be brought to its consummation without relying upon public funds for more than the superstructures of three small bridges. Incidentally Mr. Taft sees his dreams of years, a marble midway, taking form. The Chicago sculptor has offered to devote the remainder of his life to transforming the South Side's great parkway into the most beautiful boulevard in the world.

At present the Midway is a grassy strip a mile in length and about 1,000 feet wide, connecting Washington and Jackson parks. It has always been the intention of the South Park authorities to extend the depression of the Midway from the lagoons of Jackson Park to the small lakes of Washington Park, thus forming a waterway from park to park. Mr. Taft's plan presupposes this straight and formal canal, which is to occupy the present de-

pressions at a level lower than the street.

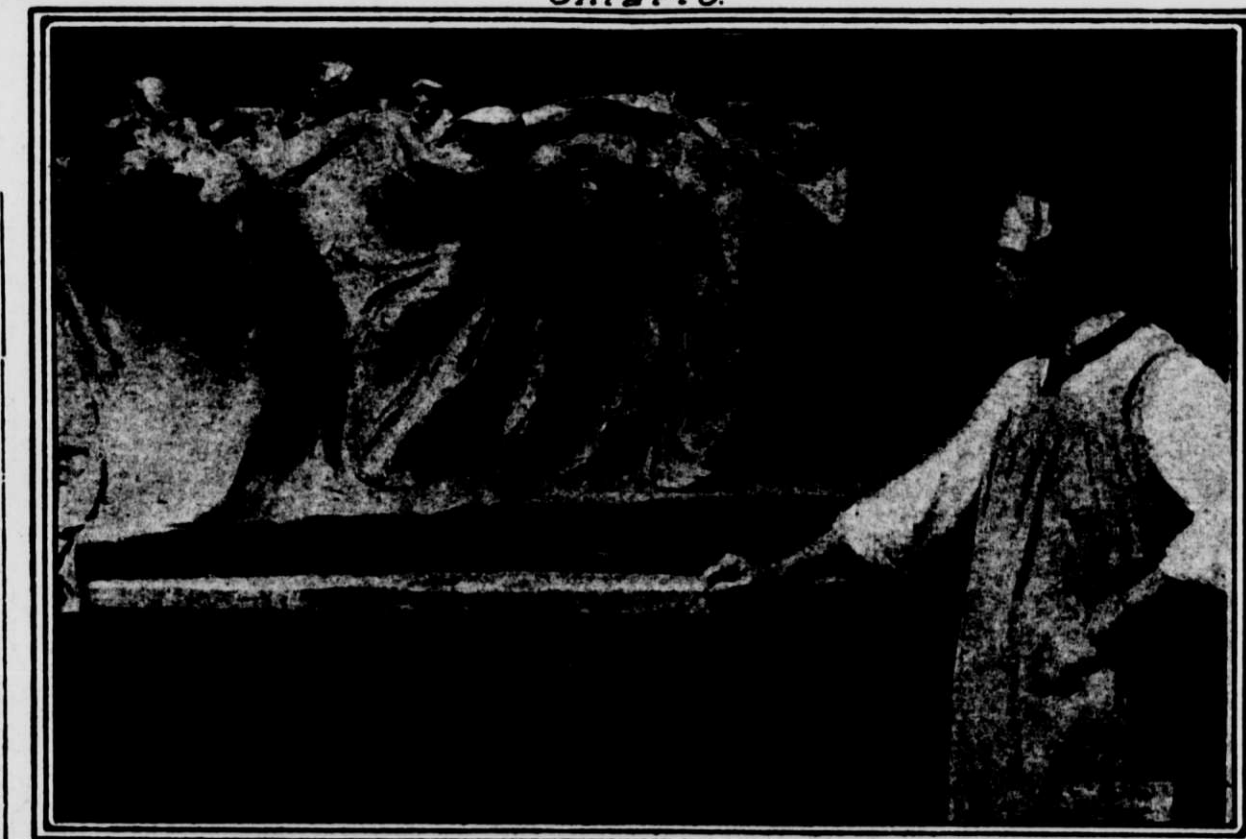
The Midway Plaisance was thus named at the time of the World's Fair. On either side it was flanked by the booths of fakirs. It was the favorite promenade of sightseers. It now adjoins the campus of the University of Chicago, and the proposed scheme of decoration will be an appropriate setting for this seat of learning, which possesses some of the most beautiful buildings in America.

The canal bisecting the Midway will fill the present central depression and will be about 100 feet wide. It is to be spanned by three white marble bridges, monumental in design, dedicated to three great ideals of the human race, science, art and religion, and will be known as the Bridge of Sciences, the Bridge of Arts and the Bridge of Faiths.

At half block intervals along the elevated strip of land some distance back from either side of the waterway are to stand bronze statues of the world's great idealists. Probably the most striking features of the general scheme will be two large fountains erected in the lagoon at either end of the Midway most. At the east end will be the Fountain of Creation and at the west end the Fountain of Time. The former takes for its subject the origin of the race, the latter mankind's journey from life to death.

The Fountain of Creation will illustrate the old Greek myth of Deucalion and Pyrrha, expressing by successive clusters the idea of evolution. The legend records that Deucalion and Pyrrha, his wife, were the only mortals saved from the flood, and that when their frail craft rested on the summit of Mount Parnassus they applied to an oracle to help them in the restoration of the human race. The goddess commanded them to cover their heads and to throw the bones of their mother over their shoulders. Interpreting this to mean Mother Earth, they cast stones behind them, which immediately took life and assumed the forms of men and women, who were to repopulate the earth.

There will be twelve groups in this fountain, containing in all thirty-six figures ten feet in height, arranged in ascending plane. Looking eastward from the Bridge of Sciences one will see near the water's surface rough boulder-



Lorado Taft Working on the First Model of "The Fountain of Time"

like forms, showing only partial development into the human figure. Gradually these figures will assume a more human aspect, but will still be vague and groping as they emerge from the rock; then they will show a look of dawning consciousness and finally full grown men and women will appear striving and yearning with hope and ambition. The marble will typify the evolution of the spiritual from the material.

Between the twelve groups of figures there will be small waterfalls which will splash into the circular basins around which the fountain with its statuary is to be constructed. The Fountain of Time will be erected just west of the Bridge of Faiths. It will show a great procession of humanity passing in review before a craglike figure of Father Time. It was suggested to Mr. Taft by Austin Dobson's lines:

Time goes, you say? Ah, no.
Alas, time stays: we go.

The throng of pushing figures passing as in review under the eyes of Father Time, each aiming at some individual goal, will show a wavelike suggestiveness typical of the unsubstantial and ephemeral nature of human life. Actual waves will carry out the idea. In the foreground will be two

figures representing the fear of youth and the joy of old age in death. The youth struggles to escape from the waves of eternity that are closing about him. The old man with a happy smile stretches out his withered arms to welcome the end.

"The Procession of Time," though yet only in sketch form, makes a strong impression. It is obviously within the comprehension of every one. The appeal of this group is obtained from its simple dignity and preservation of ideas in the mass.

This fountain will be eighty-two feet long and the figures ten feet high, except the central one, which will be about fifteen feet tall. Father Time's massive form will tower to a height of twenty feet.

The Bridge of Arts will mark the heart of the Midway and be the centre of the whole scheme. The roadway will be slightly larger than the two others and will be decorated a shade more elaborately. Such artists and sculptors as Michael Angelo and Raphael will be represented by life size statues along its sides.

The Bridge of Sciences will have figures representing the various departments of science, together with statues of the world's greatest men who from the earliest times have contributed toward the advancement of science. It will be a broad, massive arched structure constructed of concrete and the statues will be made from Georgia mar-

ble of close grain and extreme hardness.

The other great element of the world's thought, religion, will be represented by the third bridge, the Bridge of Faiths. This bridge, crossing the Midway near the western end, will be constructed along the general lines of the two others. The greatest religious thinkers or the founders of the great world religions will be reproduced in statuary along its balustrades.

The 100 bronze statues that are to dot the greenward at intervals will be of men who have made themselves famous in art, science and religion.

Fly Lore

REMEMBER how I nearly used to hurt myself laughing when the long haired doctor selling some kind of wahoo or swamp root came to our town and his colored man got a joke on him. Standing on the back end of a truck the doctor told his colored man, who when the crowd got thin obliged on the banjo, that he was a great mathematician. Then the doctor proceeded to multiply 1999 by 199 so fast that it made the negro scratch his head and everybody laugh.

"I know sumfing that multiplies rapidly, too," the colored man would say. "What is it besides myself that multiplies rapidly, Sambo?" the doctor would ask, wiping the sweatband of his hat. "Rabbits!"

I used to think that was the funniest

What Was Once Fakirs Paradise During World's Fair Designed to Be the Most Beautiful Boulevard in the World

joke in the world, but I didn't know then that rabbits are poor mathematicians compared with flies. When it comes right down to lightning calculators the common, everyday housefly has it on all of them. Musca domestica can multiply rings around any hare between Buffalo and Belgium.

This is the way the fly goes at it: A female housefly can lay from 100 to 150 eggs at a time and is capable of producing six batches of eggs during her lifetime. In fact a fly under observation at the State experimental station at Storrs, Conn., laid 120 eggs in fourteen hours. That doesn't sound like much, but just wait till the next paragraph when we get to figuring; then you'll see why flies are such marvellous multipliers.

When conditions are right the whole development of a fly can be accomplished in ten days. Fourteen days after the hatching of the flies a second generation can be hard at work laying eggs. In other words, it is possible for the eggs of the second generation to be deposited in slightly more than three weeks after the laying of the first eggs.

Now more than a dozen generations can spring into being in a single season. This means that a single female fly, with luck on her side, figuring an ideal case, beginning bright and early in the spring, may by autumn be the proud progenitor of 195,312,500,000 flies. These figures are correct: I didn't add any more ciphers than I intended.

Of course nothing like so many survive. If there did flies would drive us all from the face of the earth. Limitation in food supply carries off most of them, while varying temperature sounds the last trump for millions more. We should all be thankful for a parasitic fungus called Empusa that mows down windrows of them. There are centipedes that like the taste of flies and spiders that have a hankering for them too. A spider knows what it is about, when it spins its web.

Then, thank goodness, a fly gets old early. The average fly passes to the great beyond from old age at the age of one month. Probably you will say that you have seen a certain fly get in between the window and the screen and stay there all summer. It doesn't, though; it just seems like all summer. Without food it would go where all flies belong in a few days. Experimenters think it is a great feat to keep a fly alive under the most favorable conditions for seven weeks, and the greatest length on record is sixteen weeks.

The day a fly is born it is full size. The reason a lot of people think there are young flies is because they confuse the housefly with the lesser housefly, which is catalogued under the name Fannia canicularis. It is in the larval stage that the whole growth of the fly takes place.

Twenty-five fly eggs end to end would

make an inch. After being laid the eggs begin growing and under favorable conditions will hatch out in twenty-four hours. They keep growing and growing until just before hatching a larva is one-half inch in length. Before becoming full grown the larva (maggot) casts its skin twice. Even when wrapped up in the puparium, as the skin in the maggot stage is called, the imprisoned fly can walk by means of pads on the under side of the skin. It also has a mouth hook at the small end of the puparium which it trusts into the ground and uses to help pull itself along. All this time the larva is sensitive to light and to moisture. Oftentimes a mature larva will crawl for yards hunting for just the right amount of moisture. But most wonderful of all is the fact that in this stage it can take in food.

A new fly can be told by the shiny look on its wings.

A queer thing about a fly is that it has an inflated sac on its head with which it pushes through the confining puparium. This frontal sac is horny like the tip of the bill of a young chick, and is only used to get through the puparium. After the fly is safely out the frontal sac is withdrawn into the head and is never used again.

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